

Senate File 581 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 581

BY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 464)

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 427)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to deer population management.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 481A.130, subsection 1, Code 2021, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *Oh.* For each antlerless deer, two hundred
4 dollars.

5 Sec. 2. Section 481A.130, subsection 1, paragraph h, Code
6 2021, is amended to read as follows:

7 ~~*h.* For each deer, except as provided in paragraph "g", and~~
8 ~~for each swan or crane, one thousand five hundred dollars.~~

9 Sec. 3. Section 481C.2A, subsection 5, Code 2021, is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 5. The department shall administer and enforce the
12 administrative rules concerning deer depredation, including
13 issuance of deer depredation licenses and deer shooting
14 permits, that are established by the commission and subject to
15 the following conditions:

16 *a.* Except for a free license issued under subsection 1,
17 paragraph "b", the department shall require a fee of two dollars
18 for a license or permit issued pursuant to this section.

19 *b.* In addition to other times the department finds
20 necessary, the department shall allow licenses and permits
21 issued pursuant to this section to be used in the months of
22 September, October, November, and December.

23 Sec. 4. Section 483A.8, Code 2021, is amended by adding the
24 following new subsection:

25 NEW SUBSECTION. 9. There shall be a January antlerless
26 deer only hunting season in a county whenever that county
27 has unsold antlerless deer licenses available in its county
28 quota as set by the commission by rule. The commission shall
29 establish the season dates. Licenses shall be available for
30 sale beginning the day after the close of the late muzzleloader
31 season until either the county quota allotment has been sold or
32 until the end of the season, whichever occurs first. A January
33 antlerless deer only license issued under this subsection is
34 valid only in the county identified on the license. A rifle
35 with a barrel length of at least sixteen inches and firing

1 state \$1,500. The bill amends the reimbursement amount for an
2 antlerless deer to \$250.

3 In administering and enforcing administrative rules relating
4 to deer depredation, the bill requires the department of
5 natural resources (DNR) to require payment of a \$2 fee for the
6 issuance of a deer depredation license or permit. The bill
7 also requires DNR to allow deer depredation tags to be filled
8 in the months of September, October, November, and December, in
9 addition to any other time that DNR finds necessary.

10 Under current law, deer hunting licenses are allocated by
11 zones and counties. The bill establishes a January antlerless
12 deer hunting season in a county whenever that county has unsold
13 antlerless deer hunting licenses available in its county quota
14 set by the natural resource commission. The commission shall
15 establish the season dates. The bill sets the time when a
16 person may purchase a license for the January season and states
17 that the license is valid only in the county identified on the
18 license. The bill makes a rifle with a barrel length of at
19 least 16 inches and firing centerfire ammunition propelling
20 an expanding-type bullet with a maximum diameter of no less
21 than 0.233 inches and no larger than 0.500 inches and with a
22 published or calculated muzzle energy of 500 foot pounds or
23 higher the approved method of take for the January antlerless
24 deer hunting season.

25 The bill requires DNR to conduct a study every three years to
26 determine the estimated deer population in each county in this
27 state. The bill requires DNR to review and provide scientific
28 data relating to the environmental impact of deer populations,
29 including the impact to crops and trees, review information
30 relating to the spread of disease in deer and other wildlife
31 populations, and include information on property loss, medical
32 costs, and fatalities due to deer-vehicle accidents. The bill
33 requires DNR to work with relevant representatives from the
34 Iowa state university of science and technology agricultural
35 extension service, the department of transportation, and the

1 insurance division of the department of commerce. Expenses for
2 conducting the study shall be paid from the fish and wildlife
3 protection fund. The bill requires DNR to submit a report to
4 the general assembly by October 1, 2023, and every three years
5 thereafter.